

APPLICANT(S): AMIR, Nehemia
SERIAL NO.: 09/120,973
FILED: July 22, 1998
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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-56 are pending in the application. Claims 5-8, 10-11, 14-17, 21, and 23 have been amended. Applicant respectfully asserts that the amendments to claims 5-8, 10-11, 14-17, 21, and 23 add no new matter to the application.

Claims 1-4, 9, 22, and 24-27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

New claims 55 and 56 have been added. It is respectfully asserted that no new matter has been added to the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 5-8, 10-21 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 5-8, 10-11, 14, 16-17, 21 and 23 have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 12 and 13 are each dependent, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 11 and incorporate all the elements of this claim. Claim 15 is dependent from independent claim 14 and incorporates all the elements of this claim. Claims 18-20 are each dependent, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 17 and incorporate all the elements of this claim. Accordingly, claims 5-8, 10-21 and 23 should now all be in condition for allowance.

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Remarks to amended claim

Applicant has amended claim 15 to correct a typographical error. It is respectfully submitted that this amendment does not add new matter and does not change the scope of the claim in any way that could affect that determination by the Examiner that this claim is allowable.

Remarks to new claims

New claims 55 and 56 have been added to more clearly define the subject matter claimed by the present Application. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 55 and 56 add no new matter. New claims 55 and 56 are each dependent from independent claim 5 and incorporate all the elements of this claim. Accordingly, claims 55 and 56 should be in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 9, 22 and 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Tamamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,602,927) in further view of Rasmusson (U.S. Patent No. 4,475,731).

As claims 1-4, 9, 22 and 24-27 have been cancelled without prejudice to their reentry in a continuation of divisional application, these rejections are now moot.

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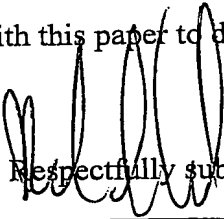
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 05-0649.


Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 31, 2003

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